

SOVIETS OPEN LINE FOR LITHUANIA OIL TO HELP END CRISIS

16-WEEK IMPASSE IS OVER

Moscow and Baltic Republic Look to Negotiations — Bush Is 'Encouraged'

By FRANCIS X. CLINES

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MOSCOW, June 30 — The Soviet Union reopened the oil pipeline to rebellious Lithuania today to begin fulfilling its part of a compromise to end the impasse on the republic's move for independence.

The resumption of oil supplies began less than a day after the Parliament in Vilnius voted to suspend its March 11 declaration of independence for 100 days in exchange for Moscow's agreement to negotiate on the issue and to lift economic sanctions.

The accord relaxed a grave sovereignty challenge to the Government of President Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

No Comment From Moscow

After months of confrontation, the end of the embargo was announced in a brief telephone call to Vilnius from the Ministry of Petroleum and Gas Industry in Moscow and then in an engineer's telegram to Lithuania's refinery in Mazeikiai.

There was no immediate comment from Moscow on the resumption of oil supplies nor any further word from Vilnius on other supplies. Those involved mainly raw materials for industry.

[President Bush, told of the Lithuanian developments while playing golf near his vacation home in Kennebunkport, Me., said, "I am very encouraged by that, very."]

Something for Both Sides

Moscow and Vilnius reached the compromise after a 16-week standoff in which Lithuania managed to withstand an array of economic sanctions.

Tens of thousands of workers were laid off and numerous factories were closed. But the determination for independence did not wane and the Lithuanians coped by relying on black-market oil supplies and local farm produce.

In the standoff, President Gorbachev had to endure the Lithuanian rebellion as the cutting edge of a wave of separatist politics sweeping the the Soviet Union and shadowing his busy agenda in world affairs.

In the compromise, Mr. Gorbachev achieved the moratorium he sought on the overall declaration of independence, while the Lithuanian Government could tell its predominantly pro-independence people that a series of laws enacted since independence declaration remained in effect.

These include measures laying claim to federal property in the republic, sparing Lithuanian men from the Soviet military draft and setting citizenship conditions that alarmed Russians who live in Lithuania.

The Soviet leader's strategy fluctuated from outright denunciation of the declaration of independence as an unconstitutional affront, dramatic midnight tank movements through the streets of Vilnius and rough arrests of

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Moscow Orders Oil to Lithuania After Suspension of Independence

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Lithuanian soldiers who deserted and of draft resisters.

Mr. Gorbachev's tone has eased recently and he invited conciliation, saying that with the rebellion on hold negotiations might lead toward a revised, more liberal Soviet Union.

He has been promising a less monolithic union along with decentralized authority in an attempt to deal with the separatist movements that dog his attempts to rouse the nation to economic and political reform.

This union is supposed to offer a liberalized option of secession to the republics, but only after years of negotiations and subject to the Soviet Parliament's final decision.

Lithuania, however, has insisted throughout that there is no option of drawn-out secession to be considered because Lithuania and the two other Baltic republics, Estonia and Latvia, lost their independence 50 years ago in forced annexation.

Tacit Backing From U.S.

The United States and other Western nations complained for years about the annexation until Mr. Gorbachev's disarmament initiatives and worldwide popularity left most important critics, including the Bush Administration, tacitly backing his approach to the crisis.

The 100-day time limit on Lithuania's independence moratorium is to begin with the start of negotiations. The moratorium on the independence declaration would end automatically if negotiations were broken off or if "certain circumstances or events" prevented the Lithuanian leadership from carrying out its duties.

An Allusion to Use of Force

The latter was an allusion to Lithuanian concern that the Kremlin might ultimately resort to force to keep the republic in the union.

The Lithuanian Parliament voted to enact the moratorium after a personal appeal from President Vytautas Landsbergis, one of the most respected founders of the independence move-

ment in the republic of nearly four million people.

He had been particularly critical of the Kremlin's earlier dismissal of Vilnius's appeal for negotiations, and his blessing of the moratorium weighed considerably in the vote — 69 in favor, 35 opposed and two abstentions.

The proposal produced bitter divisions in Parliament, and a small crowd of demonstrators gathered outside to denounce the resolution as a sellout.

Mr. Landsbergis said that the moratorium would be in keeping with Lithuania's peaceful approach to regaining independence and that the compromise would include guarantees against the Kremlin's resorting to legal maneuvering or the use of force during talks.

Many Complex Issues

Beyond the basic issue of independence itself, which remains unsettled, the talks, if they proceeded successfully, would have to touch on many complex details involved in the republic's breakaway attempt, including property confiscation and compensation.

The talks will be closely watched by other republics, including Latvia and Estonia, which have chosen more gradual moves toward independence.

The technicalities of starting up the Lithuanian refinery are expected to mean a period of up to two weeks before the plant is again operating at full capacity. The refinery, which receives oil from Polotsk, in Russia, produces more than 10 million tons of petroleum products a year.

The republic requires only about three million tons, meaning that the embargo was costly as well to the Soviet Government, which had to press other sources to meet its regional commitments.

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